

case for cutting taxes." But unfortunately for American families, the Republican tax plan fails the Speaker's own morality test.

The Republican tax proposal denies the child tax credit to 15 million working American families who make less than \$30,000. These parents work hard and in fact they pay taxes. They are trying to raise families and make ends meet. My Republican colleagues say they do not deserve a tax break simply because they do not make a lot of money. We are talking about nurses and policemen. These are the people who, for nearly two decades, have lost ground or have barely been able to keep up.

Are these the values and the priorities of this great Nation? I do not think so. The Republican tax bill leaves behind 15 million American working families, while giving an average \$24,000 tax break to the richest 1 percent of American families. Democrats believe it is the middle-class families who could use some tax relief. That is why the Democratic tax proposal gives the tax break to all families who work and who pay taxes.

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TAX FAIRNESS

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about tax fairness. I do not think that it is fair that the Government waste so much of our money.

I do not think it is fair that people have to pay between a quarter and a half of all the money that they earn to the Government, the same government that turns around and wastes it on massive programs that barely work. I also do not think it is fair when I think about how much prior generations paid in taxes compared to how much we have to pay in taxes.

Back in 1950, the average family paid less than 5 percent of its income in taxes to the Federal Government. Now that same family pays over a quarter of everything that it earns. When we add up all the State taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, all the other taxes, families are paying nearly half of what they earn to the Government. It just seems like the Government is not doing much with it. We are becoming less and less accountable every year.

I just do not think it is fair. We are going to change it. Support tax relief for American families.

WELFARE FAMILIES

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in about 15 minutes the conference committee on taxes will meet downstairs.

I continue to be appalled by the Republican attempt to create the image of people who have children and who have worked and make \$24,000 a year and calling them a welfare family.

Now, I do not understand why a rookie policeman making \$23,000, has two kids, is considered a welfare family and, therefore, is not entitled to the child tax credit. If there is any family that needs a tax break for its kids, it is families that are working and making less than \$25,000. And to call those people, whether they be school teachers or nurse's aides or rookie policemen or road workers or whatever, anybody working ought to be eligible for the \$500 tax credit. They are not on welfare.

MORE ON TAX FAIRNESS

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue the discussion of fairness started by the gentlewoman from Ohio.

I begin with the proposition that it is not fair and it is not compatible with freedom that the Government has the power to take half of everything a person earns, no matter how much money that person earns. I would like to focus rather on fairness to the poorest Americans, those who are most in need of an expanding economy, those who are most in need of an economy with job opportunities, and those who are most in need of a tax system that allows for prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, people who do not have a lot of money, even if the liberals do not realize it, realize that there is no substitute for prosperity. When the economy is in hard times, the poor get hurt the most. We know that the Government can set up a tax system that either encourages or discourages prosperity.

Notice I did not say create prosperity because the Government cannot do that, only the people can. The Government can only stand in the way.

Mr. Speaker, taxes are too high. We all know it. That definitely is not fair.

THE MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, it is my pleasure to announce another reunion of a missing child with his family. Fourteen-year-old Vincent Clayton wandered away from his Montrose, MI, home in May 1996. Vincent suffers from seizures and developed amnesia. He was living in a foster home in Toledo, OH.

Recently Vincent's foster mother received a "Have You Seen Me" card in the mail and saw a picture of her foster son. She got in touch with the authori-

ties and Vincent was reunited with his family back in Michigan.

"Have You Seen Me" is a joint effort by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and ADVO, a direct mail company.

That is why I have begun printing the pictures and vital statistics of missing children on my office envelopes and why I encourage every Member of this body to do the same. Pictures work. We must work harder to get pictures of missing children in front of as many people as we possibly can.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and join the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus.

FEELING AGGRIEVED ABOUT TAXES

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it turns out that Jerry Seinfeld and George Kastanza are talking about taxes again. As usual, George is feeling aggrieved. Apparently the problem is that George, who works for the New York Yankees and earns \$45,000 a year, is upset with what he is hearing from the Democrats in Washington. Let us listen in on their conversation.

Jerry asks, "Okay, George, what is it now?"

George responds, "Did you hear what they're doing to me now?"

Jerry says, "What do you mean, they?"

George says, "I don't know, they, the politicians in Washington."

"Well, what are they doing?"

"They're out of their minds. They're trying to tell me that my income is not \$45,000, but it's actually \$75,000."

Jerry says, "I'm sorry, George, I don't follow."

George says, "Neither do I. All I know is that there are politicians who are saying that I'm now rich, that I shouldn't get a tax cut."

Jerry says, "George, I never thought I'd see the day, and I'm not exactly sure what you are talking about, but I think I agree with you."

"Well, it's about time."

STUDY THE EFFECTS OF NAFTA

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, the House is considering a fast track for an extension of NAFTA at this time. NAFTA only passed this body by the narrowest of margins back in 1994. I would like to ask, would it not make a lot of sense to have a full congressional study or a hearing to determine the impact that NAFTA has had before we grant this fast track? Do Members suppose a little bit of information or a little more information is not a good idea? I think it is a real good idea. I